

May 19, 2022

There was a Commissioners meeting at 2:00 PM in the Commissioners Conference Room at 700 Sawmill Road, Small Conference Room for the regular scheduled Commissioners meeting. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Jean Lapinski, and April Miller. Via zoom: Alex Karpinski, Eric Boughner, Jeremy Brown, and Jen Long.

Commissioner Young called the meeting to order and asked that we stand and pledge the flag, he then called for the approval of the minutes of the prior meeting.

Motion by Kovach, seconded by Ridgway; all approved.

Commissioner Young then called for a report of the work session: There was a 10:00 work session held. In attendance were Commissioners Young, Ridgway, Kovach, Solicitor McDonald, Chief Clerk Witchey, Marcie Strachko, Michelle Frye, Bob Christianson, Jean Lapinski, Treasurer Creveling, and MJ Mahon. Via Zoom were the following individuals: Alex Karpinski, April Miller, Geralee Zeigler, Wade Mays, Corner Reese, Tami Kline, and Tim Murphy. Commissioner Young called the work session to order and asked Bob Christianson start the work session by providing an update on South Centre's sewer and water projects. He stated that there were no updates on the water project and that the local officials are awaiting to hear from the new corporation leaders on the status of the project. In regards to the sewer project they did receive a few comments from the application but the final approval and dollar amount will be announced on July 20<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that the project will be in two phases, with the first phase being the construction of the sewer plant and as much line as the phase one funding will allow. Phase 2 will be applied for in March of 2023, with the anticipated completion being the end of 2024. There is a total of over 300 easements and that 97 have gone out. Of the total easement some are permanent and some are temporary. Commissioner Young then asked Eric Boughner to speak about Business Information Group's audit of Columbia County's broadband project and infrastructure. BIG reported that the equipment that was utilized was good and that the weatherization of the equipment was done well. However there were issues identified they are as follows:

- Grounding and lighting protection is inadequate
- Structural Issues which include open port holes, a temporary tower was utilized inadequate cushions for cables, cable hangers are not rated for multiple cables.
- Electrical/Power circuit was run from property owners dwelling, no outside accessible safety/service disconnect was observed.
- Wireless findings the configurations does not follow any standard azimuth, antennas have a varying degree of down tilt.

BIG did provide recommendations and the entire report has been sent to DRIVE and their board members for their review.

Geralee then provided the Commissioners a update of Benton Borough's meeting where SEDA-COG did discuss the findings from HRG regarding Fishing Creek. The Board were interested in the re-profiling of Waller Road and the two levee projects suggested in the study. After Geralee the agenda was reviewed, Jeannie then reviewed bills and cash, Marcie reviewed all personnel moves. Then both the Salary Board and Retirement Board agendas were reviewed and then the meeting was adjourned.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

##### Magistrates – April Report:

	Cases	Collected
Berwick	287	\$4,229.39
Bloomsburg	553	\$9,190.94
Catawissa	523	\$5,621.97
Millville	244	\$4,134.02

##### Prothonotary:

##### Clerk of Orphans Courts – April Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$16,470.68

Total business all sources was \$24,931.50

##### Clerk of Courts – April Report:

Total remitted to the County was \$41,823.18  
Total business all sources was \$90,814.25

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Senator John Gordner announcement
- B. Discussion regarding BIG's audit of the Broadband infrastructure and their report.
- C. Approve the County Resolution 2022-8 recognizing the Pennsylvania legislature and Governor created America250PA to help coordinate the commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States.

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; all approved

- D. Proclamation for Week of Child Welfare Professionals June 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>
- E. Approve the Columbia County Historical & Genealogical Society request of Hotel Tax Funds \$87,750 broken down by \$65,000 for the project and \$23,750 for lost 2020/2021 revenue

Motion by Young to table to work thorough the specifics seconded by Kovach; all approved

- F. Approve the exoneration of tax/cost/interest the parcels are lease hold mobile homes that was razed with no permit

Parcel# 27-09-013-00,031	\$4,517.20
Parcel# 02-02-001-00,081	\$772.11
Parcel# 02-02-001-00,068	\$331.43
Parcel# 02-02-001-00,065	\$1,303.42

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

G. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIRES/STEP INCREASES/PROMOTIONS:

- Micaela Riley, Caseworker 2, CYS, promotion, 4/26/22
- Morgan Edwards-Lewis, Fiscal Coordinator, Comm, Hire, 5/31/22
- Natalie Hess, Tax Sale Notice Poster, Tax, ReHire, 6/13/22
- Tim Creasy, Tax Sale Notice Poster, Tax, Hire, 6/13/22
- Thea Karas, Asst Voter Re/Election Coordinator, Elections/Voter Reg, 2 yr step, 5/18/22
- Boyd Welch, PT CO, Prison, Rehire, 5/5/22

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Ridgway; all approved

H. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS/COURT EMPLOYEE HIRES/STEP INCREASES/PROMOTIONS:

- None

I. APPROVE THE DATES OF THE FOLLOWING RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/RETIREMENTS:

- None

CORRESPONDENCE:

- PennDOT notified the Commissioners that work will begin the week of May 16<sup>th</sup> for s bridge replacement on route 1035 (Lower Raven Creek Road) in Benton Township, Columbia County.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the of a permit correction adding Rossi Excavating Co and keystone Anthracite Co to surface mining permit No. 1900201C9
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notified the of a permit correction adding Hynoski Brothers Excavating, Inc to surface mining permit No. 19960101C12
- Penn E&R notified the Commissioners that PPL will rebuild 3.75 miles of existing transmission line in Conyngham Township in Columbia County.

- Frontier Communications Application for a public crossing at Low St, T-508 SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority will consist of placement of an aerial communications cable over the tracks of SEDA-COG JRA tracks right of way.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

- Approve bills from 5/13/2022 for \$2,628,571.85

Motion by Ridgway and seconded by Kovach; all approved

- Approve the American Paper bill from 5/13/2022 for \$2,034.77

Motion by Kovach and seconded by Young; abstain by Ridgway motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJOURN:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Kovach and seconded by Young. The motion passed.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
David J. Witchey, Chief Clerk